The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 38 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • APRIL - JUNE 2013

For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

Photo courtesy of Artique Paint Bar

Spring has arrived and a visit to Northeastern Connecticut will provide plenty of inspiration for the warmer months ahead! Spring is a busy time here with celebrations and events happening throughout the season. Happy 300th Anniversary to the Town of Pomfret, residents will celebrate with friends and visitors at special events. Enjoy First Friday's, beginning in May, on the first friday of every month to celebrate the arts in Downtown Putnam! For thrifty shoppers, visit two town-wide tag sales happening in Pomfret and Thompson. Gardening enthusiests will enjoy visiting our numerous farms & greenhouses. Enjoy a butterfly release at Hart's Greenhouse & Florist in Norwich. Plus parades, a fishing derby, Earth Day events, Brimfield's Antique Show, and live performances at The Bradley Playhouse and The Complex in Putnam. Please let our advertisers know you found them in the Putnam Traveler!

INSIDE:

Local Advertisers...Local Real Estate...Calendar of Events... this issue features Putnam's ***Growing Art Scene...***Lisa Andrews has opened up an ***Artique Paint Bar*** next to Silver Circle Studio in Putnam and ***Sawmill Pottery*** has added glass-fusing to their list of workshops and events...

Wag-a-Thon is a new fund-raising event put on by Day Kimball Hospital's Womens Board...featuring many furry four-legged friends and their owners...Get your kids inspired to read and walk by attending Putnam's new ***StoryWalk® Project*** this Spring...

Celebrate ***Pomfret's Tercentennial*** with events happening throughout the year including the Pomfret Lion's Club Tercentennial Ball in June...Vintage jewelry lovers will enjoy a visit to ***Abigail's Jewel Box*** in Downtown Putnam... Learn about the Hart family and how they turned a dream into a reality at ***Hart's Greenhouses*** with three locations in Brooklyn, Canterbury, and Norwich...and ***Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes*** has a lot to celebrate...with a gallery and gift shop, plus a tea room featuring monthly tea events...it is worth visiting often...Enjoy the ***Weekend Planner*** for more ideas of things to see and don't miss the ***Putnam Traveler's Quiet Corner Crossword Puzzle***!

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

Northeastern Connecticut is Forty-Five Minutes from Casinos, Hartford, & Providence
Twenty Minutes from Worcester • One Hour from Boston • Three Hours from New York City

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10,000 Copies Mailed to All Residents of Putnam, Woodstock & Pomfret Connecticut

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GDP
GLOBAL DESIGN & PUBLISHING LLC
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Printing of the Putnam Traveler provided by **101 Business Solutions,** Brooklyn, CT
Mailing services provided by **The Laser Letter Shop**, Pomfret, CT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

APRIL

5, 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 7:30 pm
7, 14 & 21 at 2:00 pm
Man of LaMancha
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
A comedy that will keep you on your toes. Alice Sycamore falls in love with Tony Kirby who invites his parents to dine on an inappropriate evening. The happy madness of the Sycamore clan does not sit well with the stuffy Kirbys and marriage seems out of the question. Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Students/Senior Citizens. www.thebradleyplayhouse.org

11th & 13th @ 2pm
Gluten-Free Goddesses
Afternoon Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes,
Pomfret, CT
Afternoon themed teas are multi-course, multi-dimensional occasions that feature assorted savories & tea sandwiches as well as Celebrations' delectable scones and biscotti plus a variety of sweets and freshly brewed tea. www.celebrationsshoppes.com

Weekends starting April 12th through May 5th
Spring Artists Collaborative
2 County Road, West Woodstock, CT
Featuring 10-15 fine artists, photographers, painters, woodworkers, furniture makers, potters, jewelers.
Visit website for details and hours.
www.artistsinthecountry.org

Fort Hill Farms

21st, 1-3pm
Down-to-Earth Day
Fort Hill Farms, Thompson, CT
Learn from the experts about the best way to treat your soil. Permaculture classes being offered - learn what permaculture is all about. For more information visit www.forthillfarms.com

21st, 12-3pm
Rotary Club Fishing Derby
Rotary Park, Putnam
Children ages 15 and under bring your own equipment and bait. Lunch will be provided. Admission is free
www.winyradio.com

27th, 7 am to noon
Earth Day Clean-Up
Organized by the Putnam Business Association, Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Townwide cleanup plus lunch.

MAY

4th @ 7am
6th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale
Pomfret, CT
Sponsored by the Pomfret Proprietors Association
Starting at 7am, you can purchase a map to guide you to the many participating residences, businesses and organizations spread throughout town. www.visitpomfret.com

9th & 11th @ 2pm
Memories with Mom
Afternoon Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes,
Pomfret, CT (see April event for information)
Reservations required. www.celebrationsshoppes.com

14th - 19th
Brimfield Antiques Show
Brimfield, MA
The Brimfield Antiques Show is the largest outdoor antiques show in the world, with over 6,000 dealers and 130,000+ visitors during the course of the week. Visit website for hours, admission and directions to the show.
www.brimfieldshow.com

17th 5-8 pm
Flower Power: A Retro Art Exhibition highlighting recycled and repurposed elements; Opening Reception
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
Reservations required (860-928-5492).
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

18th @ 11am
Relay for Life
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's nationwide signature event. The overnight event raises money and awareness while serving as a celebration for cancer survivors, a memorial for loved ones lost, and a rally for the community.
www.windhamrelayforlife.org

27th, 10am
Putnam's Memorial Day Parade
Putnam, CT
Steps off on Grove Street followed by a program at noon at Rotary Park. www.winyradio.com

JUNE

May 31 & 1, 7, 8, 14 & 15 @ 7:30 pm
2, 9 & 16 at 2:00 pm
You Can't Take It With You
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
A comedy that will keep you on your toes. Alice Sycamore falls in love with Tony Kirby and invites his parents to dine on an inappropriate evening. The happy madness of the Sycamore clan does not sit well with the stuffy Kirbys and marriage seems out of the question. Non-Musical: 171 for Adults • $14 for Students/Senior Citizens.
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org

1st @ 8am - 2pm
Thompson Town-wide Tage Sale
Throughout the town of Thompson, CT
www.thompsonrec.org

1st @ 9am
Thompson Trails Day Walk
Meet at the gazebo at Riverside Park, Rte. 12 in North Grosvenordale, CT.
www.thompsonrec.org

8th
Pomfret Lions Club Tercentennial Ball
Pomfret School, Pomfret, CT
An elegant evening with dinner, a band, and dancing, will be held at Pomfret School. Tickets ($50 per person) will be on sale to the public after April 1st. Contact Walter Hinchman @ whinchman@gmail.com.

8th, 11am - 4pm
Connecticut Open House Day
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes
Pomfret, CT
Come meet artists & see demos, plus trunk shows.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

13th & 15th @ 2pm
Queens of the Quiet Corner Afternoon Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes,
Pomfret, CT (see April event for information)
Reservations required. www.celebrationsshoppes.com

15th
Wag-a-thon
Presented by the Women's Board of Day Kimball Hospital
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
A sponsored dog walk/fundraiser for a pledge to DKH toward the purchase of 2 new digital mammography units. See full article and details in this issue of the paper.

22nd @ 7pm
Concerts on the Common
Thompson, CT
Little BIG Band on the common.
www.thompsonrec.org

First Fridays

ON-GOING EVENTS

May through October, First Fridays
First Friday of every month @ 5pm
Downtown Putnam
Enjoy live performances, vendors, art exhibits and more!
www.discoverputnam.org

Arts & Framing, Putnam, CT
Features art exhibits throughout the season.
www.artsandframingputnam.com

Connecticut Audubon Society - Center at Pomfret, Pomfret, CT Lots to see and do!
www.ctaudubon.org

Silver Circle Studio, Putnam, CT
Features local artwork and art exhibits.
www.silvercirclestudio.com

Sawmill Pottery, Putnam, CT
Features a gallery pottery and gifts, open-studio space, classes (for kids and adults) and workshops.
www.sawmillpottery.com

The Vanilla Bean Cafe, Pomfret, CT
Live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM.
www.vanillabeancafe.com

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PUTNAM'S GROWING ART SCENE

BY DOT BURNWORTH

I get bored easily. It is both a blessing and a curse. It is probably what prompted me to start my business, Sawmill Pottery. It is definitely what leads me to expand and diversify my business. It seems that Lisa Andrews, the owner of newly opened Artique Paint Bar has the same issue. That may be why, while she was still in the throes of raising 4 teenagers as well as working two jobs, she decided to open a new business. Like me, Lisa has the entrepreneurial bug. We both feel excitement and joy in the possibilities of what we can create... whether it be with a hunk of clay, on a canvas, or via a business plan.

Lisa Andrews (photo by Teagan Wells)

Photos courtesy of Artique Paint Bar

This winter, because neither Lisa nor I are content with the status quo, Putnam is finding itself with two wonderful new artistic opportunities. At Sawmill Pottery, we are now offering glass fusing, and in the newly renovated space next to Silver Circle, down what is commonly known as "Art Alley," Lisa is opening Artique Paint Bar.

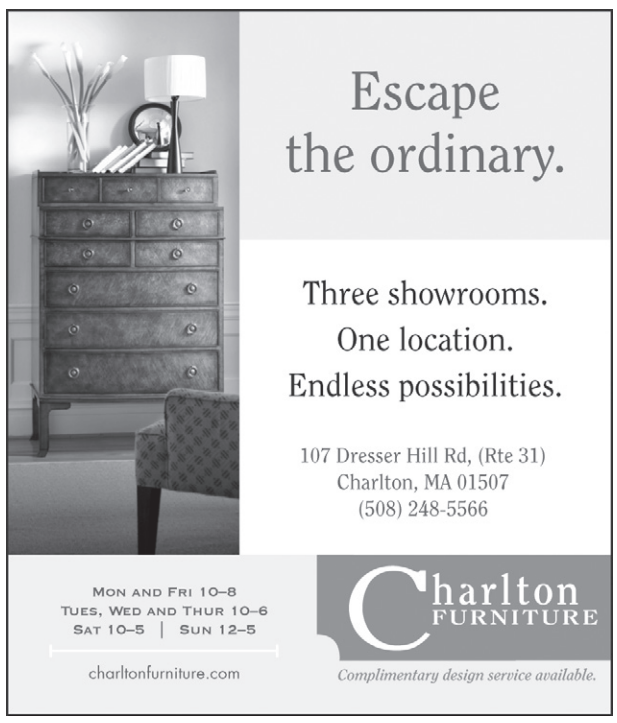
The glass fusing started on a whim. I got an email one day in the late summer from my Paint-Your-Own Pottery distributor. Along with their extensive line of bisqueware, they would soon be offering glass fusing supplies. When I learned about the glass fusing training they were offering, I thought it would be a great little vacation that I could write off. I wasn't really convinced of its viability at Sawmill Pottery. However, at the workshop, I quickly changed my tune. Glass fusing turned out to be easy, fun, and instantly rewarding.

On the drive home from the training in Baltimore, I started compiling the first of many large glass orders that I'd place over the next few weeks. On my first day back in the studio, I bought new shelving units, and within a week, I had planned my first fusing workshop. The response has been tremendous. It is almost as if community members have been ready and waiting for this expansion for a long time.

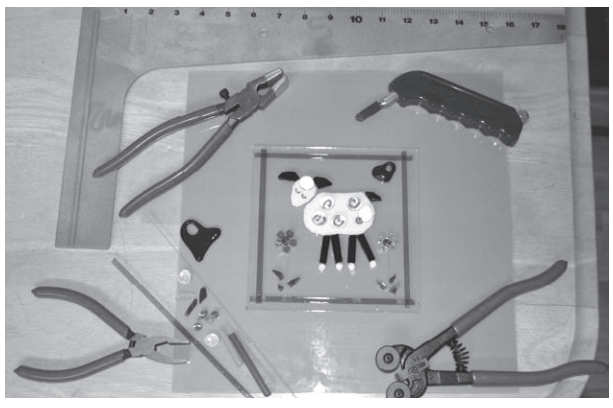
So far, we've only run workshops...on frit painting, cutting and slumping, and creating pendants and ornaments. We are hoping to be ready for walk-in glass fusing by mid-winter. The idea is that through a quick orientation, visitors to Sawmill Pottery could pick up glass tools and leave after an hour, having created a unique work of art in glass.

Another thing that Lisa Andrews and I share is this idea of offering artistic opportunities to the public that demystify the idea of "making art" and make it more accessible to everyone. That, in fact, is what both Sawmill Pottery and Artique Paint Bar are all about.

In her beautiful new space, Lisa will be teaching students how to create a painting by walking them step-by-step through the process. Each night (Thursday through Sunday), there will be a painting of the night. Interested painters will browse the website (currently under construction) for the paintings that interest them. They'll pre-register for that night's painting, and when



Glass fusing at Sawmill Pottery



they arrive at the paint bar, Lisa will provide them with the tools and the instruction they'll need to make a copy of the painting they chose. She proudly explained, "Even if you can't draw a stick figure, you can do this."

Lisa has reason to be so confident in her new business. She has been teaching art at Silver Circle Studio since its inception 4 years ago. Additionally, her teaching credentials include an assistant teacher position held at Pomfret Community School for 9 years. While this new venture is a deviation from her work in more traditional school settings, she will undoubtedly use her experience to help her in her new undertaking. Her interest in event planning and her years working at Pomfret Spirits helped give her the background needed to round out her concept.

The business model she's creating is to provide a "mini creative vacation." She wants to provide a lovely, inviting space for people to visit with friends. "It should feel like you're going out to dinner," she added as she showed me around the beautiful space, designed with help from Christine Kalfalus, owner of Stitch Sewing and Design Studio.

Visitors will be welcome to bring their own wine, which will only add to the relaxed, homey environment. The new business owner wants her space to be "user-friendly" and not intimidating.

When Lisa talks about the paint bar, her excitement is infectious. I was ready to sign up for a night after speaking to her for just a few minutes. This enthusiasm is what prompted Carly Martin, owner of Silver Circle just next door, to encourage Lisa to branch out on her own. Carly saw the entrepreneurial spark in Lisa, and she knew that Lisa would be a welcome addition to Putnam's growing artistic workforce.

Putnam is enjoying a growing reputation as the Quiet Corner's artistic capital. Between events like First Fridays, gallery openings, and the introduction and expansion of creative businesses, this reputation is well deserved. While other towns are struggling to make it through the end of this national recession, Putnam is growing and thriving because of the hard work of creative entrepreneurs that I'm proud to call peers.

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"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." *- Roger Caras*

A wet nose and a few furry kisses led to the development of a new event for area residents. At a committee meeting of members of the Day Kimball Hospital Woman's Board (DKHWB) at the home of Kathy Rocha, Duke, her affectionate Australian Labradoodle, was the center of attention. Board President, Cheryl Borzorgmanesh, noticed how much everyone loved Duke and suggested that the group consider a fundraising event that involves dogs.

BY NANCY WEISS

Soon plans for the first annual Wag-A-Thon were underway, which will be held on June 15th at the Woodstock Fairgrounds from 10-2, rain or shine, with registration starting at 9 a.m. Duke was immediately selected as the poster dog for the event.

Rocha and Borzorgmanesh agreed to co-chair the event, which will raise funds for a pledge of $107,250 made by the Woman's Board to Day Kimball Hospital toward purchase two state-of-the-art digital mammography units for the detection of breast cancer. Borzorgmanesh noted that 100% of the funds raised at the Wag-A-Thon will benefit area residents as the units will be located at hospital facilities in Plainfield and Putnam. The machines will produce high resolution images in less time and expose patients to less radiation.

Kathy Rocha and Duke

DKH currently performs about 10,000 mammograms each year on women in our community. They will benefit tremendously from the new equipment.

Since its inception in 1894, the mission of the Woman's Board has been to raise funds in support of the Hospital. More than $1 million for equipment, supplies, and programs has been raised to date.

The Wag-A-Thon will include a number of competitions and opportunities for families and individuals to spend time with their dogs while supporting an important cause.

Two dog walks, one for small dogs and one for large, will be held on the track at the fairgrounds. Since the Wag-A-Thon is the day before Father's Day, fathers are especially encouraged to participate with their children and dogs in the walks.

Other events include Pretty Pup, Dress-Alike, and Best Dog Trick competitions; Dog Frisbee; Police Dog Showcase, and Agility Exercises.

Visitors will be able to enjoy lunch from local vendors as well as face painting, a photo booth and a clown to entertain the children.

To participate, every dog needs to be sponsored through donations from people wanting to contribute to the fundraiser. The dogs must have up-to-date shots and wear their license and rabies tags. All dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and be controlled by their owner at all times.

Businesses are also being asked to support the Wag-A-Thon at a range of levels with Best in Show being at the top with a donation of $5000. Supporters will be featured in advertising and offered numerous other benefits for their donations. Woodstock Building Association, owned by Douglas Porter signed up to be the first corporate supporter. Other area businesses are stepping up with their gifts to be part of the event. Many of the 325 current members of the Day Kimball Hospital Woman's Board own dogs and plan to either enter their pets themselves or recruit others to do so.

Area businesses related to the canine world will be represented, either to share information or sell pet related products. A local veterinarian will be on hand to answer questions.

"We want to appeal to a broad base of people in the area. The Wag-A-Thon will help us reach out to individuals who have never attended a DKHWB program. Our dogs brings us so much joy that we feel certain others will want to join in the fun of spending a day with dog lovers," said Rocha.

The greater purpose of the event, to provide funding toward state-of-the-art mammography units, is especially meaningful to breast cancer survivor, Gladys Tucker, who as a member of the Woman's Board, smiles confidently from the front cover of the program brochure with Duke, the poster dog, on her lap.

"I'm happy to support the Wag-A-Thon as I believe women should protect themselves as best they can against breast cancer. Better detection will help. I am behind this event 100% because it will contribute to the purchase of new mammography units to help our community, "said Tucker

Duke, the poster dog, will be at the Woodstock Fairgrounds to greet participants in the Wag-A-Thon. He appears to be a serious contender for the Pretty Pup contest, although he will be just as happy to kiss a few faces, oblivious of the role he played in inspiring the first Wag-A-Thon by the Day Kimball Hospital Woman's Board.

For further information contact Kathy Rocha at 860-928-5013.

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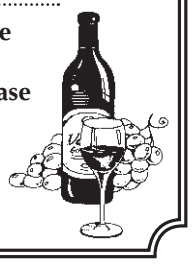

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StoryWalk®

It's spring in New England. While the weather isn't always perfect, it's time to emerge! If you need a reason to get outside and want your kids to enjoy the fresh air too, there's a fun, new activity that blends walking and reading right in downtown Putnam.

BY CRIS CADIZ

The StoryWalk® Project is a clever community initiative that piggybacks on the already popular Putnam River Trail. Originally conceived in Vermont by volunteer Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library, StoryWalk® focuses on getting children outside to enjoy fresh air, exercise with adults and share the gift of literacy.

The concept of StoryWalk® is freely shared by the Vermont originators, who have spread the idea far and wide in their home state and beyond. According to the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition website, StoryWalk® "has spread to at least 69 towns within Vermont and 38 states outside Vermont. In addition, it has appeared in Canada and Bermuda."

StoryWalk® came to Putnam through Delpha Very, Director of the Putnam Economic Development Commission and a HealthQuest Mentor. Very heard about it on a conference call with other mentors from all over the country who were talking about community initiatives. Very immediately liked the idea. "For me it seemed like low hanging fruit. It was very, very little money . . . and it's clearly an initiative of HealthQuest in building healthy communities."

The StoryWalk® Project is a collaboration among HealthQuest (a regional collaborative health and wellness partnership), Putnam Public Schools and Putnam's Economic Development Commission. It has been funded by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant.

This is how it works: Putnam School District recommends an age and seasonally appropriate story book (geared toward younger school age children). Three copies are purchased. One is taken apart and laminated (by local business Chase Graphics), one is kept at the library and a third is on hand in case of damage. Each laminated page is posted by volunteers on the River Trail between The Farmer's Market Pavilion and the intersection with Route 44 at Cargill Falls. Up since October 2012, the StoryWalk® is already becoming a popular activity. Kids can look forward to a new book every month or two. Eventually, the town hopes to share books with other communities to make the cost of the program virtually nothing.

Laura Williams, Principal of Putnam Elementary School, was also key in getting this project off the ground. "Delpha approached us with a few models of what was being done in various states. We thought it was a nice concept that supports literacy and exercise at the same time."

A small committee consisting of Williams, Literacy Specialist Kelly Gelineau, Library Media Specialist Jana Salerno, and Linda Davis, Williams's secretary, selected the age appropriate literature to be posted along the River Trail for the year. "Our role was selecting literature and books that met the requirements," said Williams.

"We chose books with an elementary school focus... ones with fun pictures or nice illustrations and large enough to be viewed from standing...books that can be easily read by first to third graders." The books also focus on seasonal topics and, whenever possible, try to incorporate a theme of good nutrition.

In early March, local parent Michelle Benton took a group of children that ranged from 3rd grade to 7th grade to try out StoryWalk®. "I've decided it should be renamed, 'Read and Run,'" she said, "because that is what the kids did. As they read the first page and saw the beautiful illustrations it captured their imaginations. Normally you could just flip to the next page, but with this set-up their minds have time to imagine what comes next. As soon as they finished the first reading board they were off and running to the next. It was wonderful to see their excitement and anticipation to find out what comes next."

Benton and her entourage read Too Many Pumpkins by Linda White, illustrated by Megan Lloyd. "It is a wonderful pick for the walk," says Benton. "It shows you the power of creating something positive from nothing. The children and I both loved the story walk. And with it being just under a mile it allowed the kids to get out and get some exercise...1 1/2 miles to be exact, without even knowing it. Another nice part is that everyone can do this whether you are in a wheelchair or can run to the next board. It's a fun, free, positive thing to do in Putnam."

Very thinks StoryWalk® can help address contemporary concerns in our society. "I think that no matter what statistics you look at about childhood obesity, a lot of it is just because they are not getting outside to play, they are not engaged in physical activities as much as past generations were. [StoryWalk®] is about a healthy lifestyle, it's about engaging families and it's about the gift of literacy."

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POMFRET TERCENTENNIAL

The town of Pomfret celebrates its 300th birthday this year! In commemoration of this august event, a committee of town residents and leaders has come up with an entire year's worth of activities. The festivities were kicked off at the 2012 Positively Pomfret Day, an annual community celebration that takes place in mid-September. Below are the events for the rest of the year, which will be wrapped up at the 2013 Positively Pomfret Day.

BY CRIS CADIZ

In addition to these happenings, the Pomfret 300 Committee organized a commemorative calendar and two handmade quilts. One quilt was designed and sized to be on display at the Town Hall. The other, a collaboration of over 60 community members who worked for several months to create a truly beautiful heirloom quality quilt, will be raffled off to a lucky winner at the annual town meeting in May. Calendars and Quilt Raffle Tickets are available for sale throughout town, including the Pomfret Wine & Spirit Shoppe, Martha's Herbary, Celebrations, town libraries, and the Vanilla Bean Café.

The 18,000 acres that would become Pomfret was first acquired in 1686 from Mohegan sachem Owaneco for the price of 30 pounds. It was called the Mashamoquet Purchase–the name meaning "good fishing" in the native tongue. Captain John Sabin was probably the first settler in 1696. Other settlers came and established mills, including the Brayton Grist Mill, still standing today and open seasonally as a museum. Pomfret is famous for the Wolf Den, now a historic site on the National Register within Wolf Den State Park, the site where General Israel Putnam killed the last known wolf in Connecticut.

Pomfret was incorporated in 1713. It was named after an English town in Yorkshire called Pontefract (meaning "broken bridge" and pronounced Pomfret), which was the home of Governor Saltonstall. Over the years, Pomfret lost land to other towns being incorporated around it, including Brooklyn, Hampton and Putnam. During the heyday of the Industrial Revolution, Pomfret was home to country estates of some wealthy families who escaped the cities in summer–usually by train. The Airline Trail, which meanders through town, is the remnant of a railway that ran from New York to Boston.

Today, Pomfret may be smaller than the original Mashamoquet Purchase, but it has plenty of open space, including a few remaining farms, the CT Audubon Sanctuary, Wyndham Land Trust land, and two state parks. It is also home to a number of historical sites, such as Abington Congregational Church, the Old Town House, and Pomfret Street Historic District. Pomfret is proud of its two boarding schools, Rectory School and Pomfret School, established in 1920 and 1894, respectively. As a rural, residential town with a population of about 3,800 and an excellent public school system, it is a great place to live and raise a family.

Pomfret 300 Events

April — Look for daffodils blooming along Pomfret roads from The Pomfret Democratic Town Committee's fall bulb sale.

April 16 — Ken Ebbitt of Woodstock will give a talk on General Israel Putnam at 7:00 pm at the Old Town House.

April 27— Pomfret 300th Victorian Etiquette Tea at 2PM with Sylvia Danenhower telling tales & sharing tidbits. Tickets are $32 plus tax and gratuity. $5 of each ticket sold will be donated to The Friends of Pomfret Library. Advance reservations required. For more info call Celebrations at 860-928-5492.

May — A commemorative postmark will be available at the Pomfret Post Office.

May 22 — Pomfret's Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Pomfret Congregational Church. The presentation of the Pomfret quilt to the town will take place along with the drawing of the winning ticket for the raffled Tercentennial Quilt.

June 8 — The Pomfret Lions Club Tercentennial Ball, an elegant evening with dinner, a band, and dancing, will be held at Pomfret School. Tickets ($50 per person) will be on sale to the public after April 1, contact Walter Hinchman by mail (Box 224, Pomfret 06258) or email (whinchman@gmail.com).

September — Positively Pomfret Day 2013!

For more information about Pomfret 300 Events, please contact Walt Hinchman whinchman@gmail.com / 860-928-3355 or Maureen Nicholson maureen.nicholson@pomfretct.org / 860-214-9755.

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Abigail's Jewel Box is located in the heart of historic, downtown Putnam, which seems the perfect spot for this boutique jewelry store full of vintage treasures. Abigail's is clearly not your run of the mill jewelry store. After spending a little time there, you'll understand that unique jewelry, outstanding customer service and time honored tradition are the foundations of this special place.

BY CRIS CADIZ

"We are price friendly and people oriented. We have pieces from a few hundred up to multiple thousands. We do beautiful custom work, and we like to say that all the nice people come here," says Zee Anolik, who owns and operates Abigail's with her brother Jeffrey. Abigail's has been in Putnam since 2000, having been drawn there by the area's small town ambiance and values, vintage feel and safety. Always having been in the jewelry business, the siblings are both Graduate Gemologists with a wealth of knowledge about fine and vintage jewelry, metals and stones.

Abigail's specializes in all eras of jewelry. In addition to fine gold, platinum and gemstone jewelry, they also carry a collection of vintage sterling silver and costume jewelry. Because they truly understand the structure of vintage pieces and can spot when something has be resized many times or damaged through the years, their vintage jewelry is all in excellent, wearable condition and can be passed down as a family heirloom.

Abigail's does a lot of engagement ring business. "It's my mission in life to match the right person to the right ring," says Zee. "I really feel that there's a right ring, that when it goes on the right hand it makes that person happy. And my goal is to find that right piece." Accordingly, Abigail's sells a lot of diamonds, and they claim you get a much better purchase when you buy at a boutique shop such as theirs than at a 300-outlet chain or mall store. "Here, you're not paying for Mr. Zale's 401K," quips Zee. "And we aren't commercial grade people...they have to be able to replace ring A with exactly ring A and you can't do that with better stones. People here get not only a more interesting ring but a better ring and one that has more value to it...and you end up paying less for it."

From her wealth of experience selling engagement rings, Zee strongly recommends that purchasing one is something that couples do together. "Surprises are not good. You have to make sure the ring fits the hand. I mean, she's going to see it more than she sees him! You have to make sure it's perfect, because whether it's $500 or $5,000 or $10,000, it's hard earned money and it should only be spent for something that's wonderful."

Abigail's also provides services such as appraisals for insurance, estates and so on. "Our appraisals will be accepted in any court of law and we often work with attorneys and estates for such purposes," says Zee. They also buy jewelry and gold, including coin collections. Unlike a lot of other stores, Abigail's will take the time to see if the coins have any additional value to them besides their worth in precious metal. "We are certainly rooting for our customers, that they do have that [added value]," says Zee. "We buy jewelry for resale as well and we always pay a premium if it's something that we can resell. Not every piece is resellable, but if there's something nice, we're really delighted to get it in here and hope to find it a new mommy."

Customer service is paramount at Abigail's. "I do my very, very best to help people," says Zee, "which I think unfortunately is one of those things that a lot of younger people have no experience with. When I was a kid you'd go shopping and you'd have a professional

salesperson asking if you want to see it in a different size, a different color...you'd have people who are not only there to assist you but to find what suits you. And that's what I'm here for." Zee takes pride and pleasure in serving her customers well. "Whatever their purchase is, an engagement ring or a gift, it's my pleasure and I really find it an honor to be part of their lives and of a memorable purchase on a memorable occasion--or just a 'we're together and we're lucky' occasion, which are my favorite."

Custom and restoration work has become a large part of Abigail's business. "We make jewelry for people using their stones or ours," says Zee who claims that Jeffrey likes a challenge when it comes to custom work. "He does all our work so if it's a complicated piece he's happier."

Abigail's can fabricate a custom item even using a magazine photo or internet picture as inspiration. "This way the customer can get a better quality stone than would be commercially available, and the proportions are just right for their hand. People have been very happy with this, and we've been able to repurpose family diamonds into a more wearable, contemporary engagement ring for the next generation to enjoy."

"I've always admired vintage jewelry because you have people who were professional jewelers who made an honest living after having interned and apprenticed. It was an honorable tradition to sit at a bench, to learn to master their craft and to improve," says Zee, who mourns the loss of these traditions in today's society.

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But the respect and love for this tradition and its beautiful products are alive and well at Abigail's, whose vintage jewelry includes a very special collection that Zee and Jeffrey discovered and acquired in its entirety in Providence, once the fine jewelry capital of the country.

Abigail's Heirlooms™ Collection is the beautiful legacy from the late 1800s that Master Jeweler Antonio Tomassi left for his first-born American granddaughter, whom he imagined would be named Abigail. Tomassi, an immigrant from the Old World, was a highly skilled craftsman who saw the world rapidly changing around him. Realizing his careful workmanship would eventually be replaced by mass production, he created a collection of thousands of pieces of finely crafted

Selected pieces from ABIGAIL'S HEIRLOOMS™, the world's largest collection of never-worn authentic Victorian jewelry.

jewelry that he set aside for Abigail. Sadly, he never got his wish for that granddaughter, but his legacy survived, hidden away in the basement of his family home.

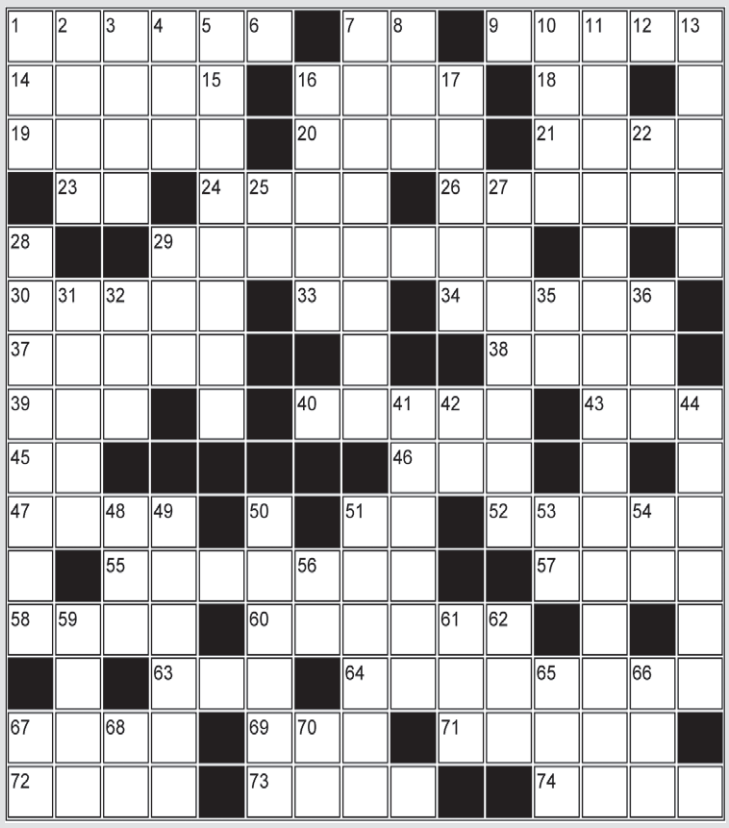
Now Abigail's Heirlooms™ Collection of never-worn, authentic Victorian jewelry resides in Putnam, and on the fingers, necks and wrists of the lucky customers who have discovered this special treasure trove. "I've found the most amazing aspect of the collection is that it was made for people to wear," says Zee. "These were pieces that the merchants' wives had. These were pieces that you don't see often in the market today because they were worn every day and worn out. So to find this collection that is pristine from the day they were made, it's amazing."

"Time worn traditions are there for a reason," says Zee. "It's always nice to be on the cutting edge of technology but in certain fields technology is not where you want to be. In certain fields there are time honored traditions and qualities and craftsmanship that make the difference of whether a ring is going to last and be passed down and be something that is wearable for years to come."

Located at 76 Main Street in Putnam, Abigail's is open Thursday through Sunday from 11AM to 6PM. A sampling of pieces from Abigail's Heirlooms™ Collection (along with a gallery of images of other jewelry) and the story behind it can be seen at **www.abigailsjewelbox.com.**

Your Quiet Corner Crossword

by Burt Hansen *(answers can be found online at putnamtraveler.com)*



ACROSS

1. Close
7. A saint or a street (abbrev.)
9. Describes a spoiled picnic?
14. Enemy of local trees: Emerald ash _____
16. Sounds heard in the pasture
18. ___ no!
19. _____ plasty
20. Can we believe it's not butter?
21. Nordik ____
23. Between FA and LA
24. 55 across and 41 down get them
26. Once a beacon, now a drag on Europe
29. Response to "I'm ready now!"
30. 30 days hath September, _____, June and November
33. Yes, to Juan
34. Popular '90s musician from 26 across
37. The _____ Show with Jon Stewart
38. Use this in case of 9 across.
39. Level you need to be for 55 across and 41 down
40. Enrico _____, physicist
43. Locale of a war, for short
45. What we all want to be
46. A or an, to Franz
47. Turn over a new ____
51. A result of being too social? (abbrev.)
52. I ___ ___! (understand)
55. Arch rivals of 41 Down
57. Nanny, in India
58. An editor's word
60. Famous golfer
63. The weather will be this soon enough
64. Paint choice at this time of year
67. Where Israel Putnam shot the wolf
69. Want Ad initials
71. Piloted the car
72. High-ranking title in the Middle East
73. A favorite car of one Car Talk brother
74. Use your outside voice

DOWN

1. Basketball org.
2. A REALLY long time
3. This year's best movie
4. Outdoor outfitter (abbrev.)
5. A Quiet Corner town, or a borough in New York City
7. One occurs on June 21 this year
8. Get a ___ hold
10. Can be seen on scales
11. How to get to Worcester
13. Worse than Uh oh!
16. Dot your eyes?
17. Another spoiled picnic
22. Current that's not DC
25. Tester of electrical appliances (abbrev.)
27. What a brook might be after rain
28. Kids search for these in spring
29. To make dressing, start with this
31. ____ Davis, pharmaceuticals
32. ____ de Janeiro
35. Not Applicable (abbrev.)
36. ___ Lupino
41. Boston's boys of summer
42. Between RE and FA
44. Her day is May 12
48, Yes, to a pirate
49. His day is June 19
50. Slid by
51. A thin layer of wood
53. The CEO's aide (abbrev.)
54 Yesteryear course for Junior High boys (abbrev.)
56. Where to go for urgent care (abbrev.)
59. A streetcar or trolley
61. One way of being incorporated (abbrev.)
62. ____ Spiegel, German magazine
65. ___ Rogers
66. Old English Language (abbrev.)
67. Newer way to say A.D.
68. Six, to Caesar
70. Weight loss group (abbrev.)

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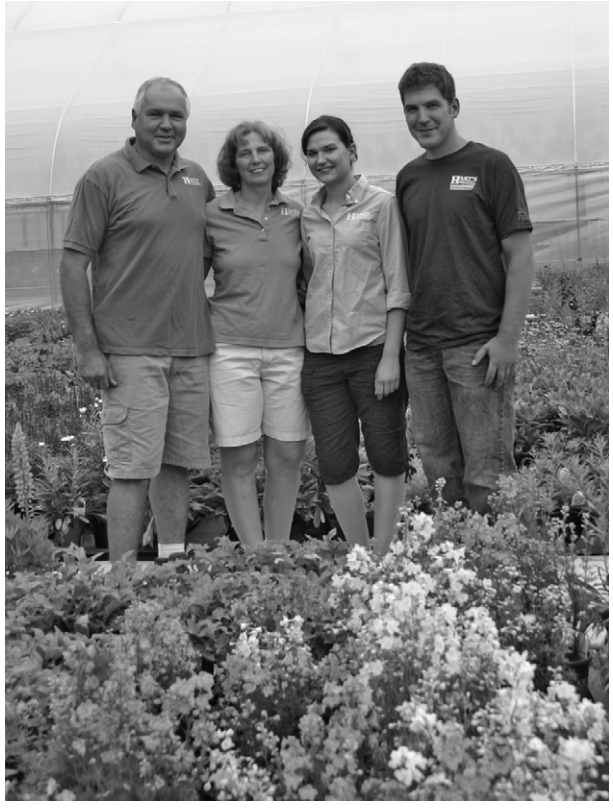
Hart's Greenhouse
& Garden Center

Joyce and Dave Hart met in college and on their very first date discussed their mutual dream to own a business. They could not have imagined that almost thirty years later, they would be operating one of Eastern Connecticut's most successful greenhouse and florist businesses.



BY NANCY WEISS

Today, as Joyce and Dave and their children Chris and Jess, as well as daughter-in-law, Audrey, begin another season in the plant business, nearly everything is coming up roses, or petunias or perennials in three locations in Brooklyn, Canterbury and Norwich. With a dedicated work force of over 40 employees, all three locations are bursting with colorful items to brighten the landscape.

The Harts met at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Dave worked for several years after graduation at the Plant& Soil Research Farm, where he became Farm Manager. Joyce earned a bachelor's degree and they founded Hart's Green house and Florist in 1986 at the Canterbury location.

The story of Hart's Greenhouse and Florist begins in 1980 when Dave bought a tractor to use in growing vegetables for the local farmers market. A small cold frame was constructed from repurposed windows and heated with horse manure to provide them with their own plants.

The Harts grew vegetable transplants for the market and sold the extras at a local hardware store. The venture was successful and by year two they were ready to begin one of a sequence of expansions by constructing a 20'x30'greenhouse, which they heated with wood, often going out to the building in the middle of the night to check on the heat.

By 1982 they were operating a retail store and growing operation at their Canterbury location. They opened by offering seed geraniums. Joyce, with twins, Jessica and Christopher, playing at her feet, soon found there was a market for cemetery pots. Soon Joyce was selling vegetables and plants from a roadside stand. The Harts found a location nearer the center of town and lived in the building that now houses their offices for several years. In 1988 Dave left his position at UConn and the family committed itself to full-time involvement in every aspect of their business.

Dave smiles in recalling 6-year old, Jess, who worked washing vegetables and dumping the pots of spent mums with persistence and skill. Today she operates Hart's Norwich location and is in charge of buying all the flowers, gifts and nursery stock for the company.

The next decade was one of consistent growth for the family-owned operation. As the twins graduated from Woodstock Academy and the University of Connecticut, the Hart family expanded their operations to include in 1998 a second location in Brooklyn along busy Route 6.

They created a retail space with a foliage greenhouse, an open-air structure and a gift shop. Around an existing pond, they included trees, shrubs, a potting shed and gardening supplies.

The Growing Facility on Bennett Pond Road in Canterbury took the operation to a new level. The Harts were interested in wholesaling some of their plant material and grew outdoor mums, annuals and poinsettias in three large Quonset hoop houses. In 1999 they took a major step and constructed a Westbrook greenhouse that covers one acre and uses sophisticated technology for watering, conserving energy and operating automated transplanting equipment.

"Building the Westbrook greenhouse was the best decision we ever made", said Hart with a smile, noting that they currently grow over one million plants at the 140,000 square foot facility under the direction of Chris Hart.

When asked how they manage to stay so up-to-date in their field, the Harts acknowledge that they are always interested in new ideas. A vendor once told them that they are among the best -traveled operators in the region. They go to every trade show they can, including trips to Holland, the epicenter of innovation in the plant world, for ideas and demonstrations of new technologies.

"We are interest in the newest ways to do things. We watch the trends and stay on the cutting edge," said Joyce, who may test a new product line by first showing it to the more than 1,000 Facebook friends Hart's has developed.

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The Norwich store was built in 2005 and is the largest location with a state-of-the art greenhouse. Jess Hart offers a full service florist and a large gift shop. Jess also enjoys working with bridal parties and places special emphasis on school programs giving weekly seminars in the spring.

This year the Norwich location will include a Butterfly Pavilion with 1000 butterflies during the festival on June 6-9 to benefit Chelsea Gardens.

The nursery and garden field is highly competitive, but the Harts find ways to distinguish their products from big box stores. They affiliate with the Garden Elements brand of plants from Master Nursery Garden Centers, a cooperative of independent businesses. By working with Garden Elements, they can offer the newest plants in the latest colors.

"Last year the Brooklyn store was a show stopper with a long line of large hanging pots of pink petunias called, Vista Bubblegum. We also carried many unusual black flowers. This year I look forward to some special bicolor yellow and white mini petunias called calibrachoa, among other new offerings. We sell lots of perennials, but customers really like the color that they get from annuals and that's what we will have in abundance," said Joyce Hart.

The Harts began their business with vegetables and intend to return to those roots this year. They are offering their customers shares in a CSA, or community supported agriculture. Every week for 16 weeks, members of the CSA will receive vegetables worth $30 from the ripe, ready to eat crops grown at their farm in Canterbury . Twice weekly pick ups on Tuesday or Saturday at all three retail locations will give families fresh, locally grown produce from mid- June until mid-October depending on the weather.

"Food has to be grown locally by people one knows and by people who care," said Dave Hart.

Every family that participates in the CSA program will get a sticker that says: No Farms. No Food. The Harts use the most modern techniques to minimize the impact of their farms on the land. They live their own lives with a strong sense of reverence for nature and take their roles as growers of living things very seriously.

As a new season unfolds, the Hart family is ready with new ideas and products, but the favorite part of the business according to Joyce and Dave Hart is earning customer loyalty and developing relationship.

"We want our customers to come back each year and we want to know them," Dave Hart said.

While their first date is many years behind them, the enthusiasm of Joyce and Dave Hart to develop a sound, progressive business in eastern Connecticut is as solid as ever. Now it is returning to its roots in growing edible plants to help the next generation enjoy the fruits of enlightened farmers.

Hart's can be reached at:
www hartsgreenhouseflorist.com or at their facebook page.

Special Butterfly Event:

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Norwich Store: 43 Clinton Ave,
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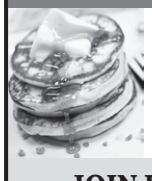
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Prudential Connecticut Realty

Stephanie J. Gosselin

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Pomfret Antique Cape
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The Bow House
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A LOT TO *Celebrate*

Celebrations–a gallery, gift shop and tea room located in a beautifully restored Victorian on scenic Route 169 in Pomfret–will be seven years old this coming May! Celebrations' staff is still surprised when folks come in and say things like, "I've driven by here a hundred times and I'm finally stopping!" Those customers are never disappointed and they usually say they will be back...with friends.

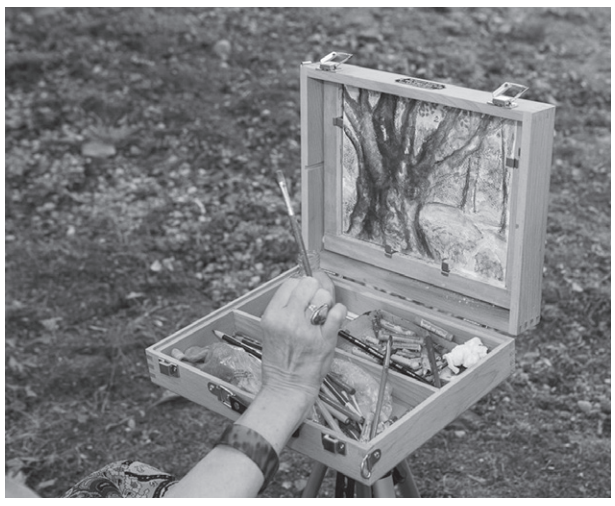
BY CRIS CADIZ

One exciting aspect of Celebrations is that things are always evolving there. The store started out as a gallery and gift shop, representing dozens of local and regional artists plus featuring gifts in all price ranges and tea-related items and accessories. Art and retail displays are constantly changing, to incorporate new artists and artwork plus new and seasonal merchandise. Every couple of months the gallery holds a special art exhibition including a Meet the Artists Reception open to all and featuring complimentary refreshments.

In 2011 the tea room was added. Celebrations now offers Monthly Themed Afternoon Teas, held twice a month on a Thursday and a Saturday afternoon. The teas are open to all by advance reservation. They have become very popular, and some teas, such as Christmas, Halloween and Mother's Day, fill up well in advance. Guests of all ages and gender find Celebration's Afternoon Teas to be a fun, relaxing and delicious way to spend an afternoon with friends and family. Celebrations can also host private Afternoon Tea Events such as bridal & baby showers, birthdays, and all kinds of celebratory occasions

Celebrations prides itself on constantly updating its inventory of both artwork and retail merchandise. A recent addition of the trendy Alex and Ani jewelry line has brought in a whole new group of customers who are pleased and surprised to find that Celebrations not only offers their coveted bangles but two floors of all kinds of treasures. Celebrations also has a dedicated group of loyal customers who enjoy coming back again and again for gifts (for friends, relatives or themselves!), tea and tea accessories, and to indulge in Afternoon Tea.

Today, Celebrations has become a destination. People travel from all over the state plus Massachusetts and Rhode Island to visit, shop and take tea there. Celebrations continues to offer many events and activities to keep their artists and customers involved and inspired. A list of upcoming events is below. Visit www.celebrationsshoppes.com for more information on these and other events being planned plus the 2013 Monthly Themed Afternoon Tea Schedule. On the website you can sign up for a monthly e-newsletter. Also visit and like Celebrations' Facebook page for the most current happenings, including new artists, artwork and retail arrivals.



Flower Power: A Retro Art Exhibition highlighting recycled and repurposed elements
May 17th - June 23rd with Meet the Artists Opening Reception, Friday, May 17th, 5-8PM

Pomfret 300Th Victorian Etiquette Tea
April 27th at 2 pm. Celebrating the Town's 300th Anniversary and benefitting The Friends of the Pomfret Public Library. With Sylvia Danenhower telling tales & sharing tidbits. Reservations required.

Connecticut Open House Day
Saturday, June 8 11am - 4pm: come meet artists & see demos, plus trunk shows.

Illumination Art Exhibition:
A playful dance with light
Saturday, July 20 - Sunday, September 1

Pumpkins, Gourds & Mums, Oh My!
An art exhibition of 3-dimensional fall-time fun
Saturday, September 28 - Sunday, October 27

5Th Annual Small Works, Artful Treasures Exhibition
November 2 - January 5

Some Upcoming Monthly Themed Afternoon Tea Events, Reservations Required
Gluten-Free Goddesses - 2 pm, April 11 & 13
Memories with Mom - 2 pm, May 9 & 11
Queens of the Quiet Corner - 2 pm, June 13 & 15

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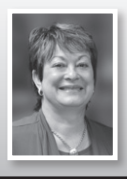
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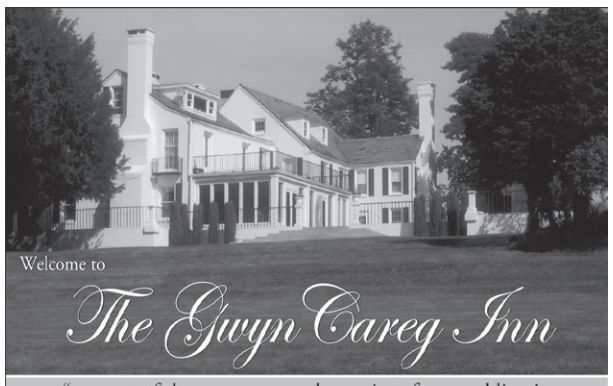
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Spring Weekend Planner

❖ **FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN:**
Check into ***Birdsong Inn Bed & Breakfast*** **(www.bird-song-inn.com)** is located in a quiet, rural neighborhood in the most northeastern corner of Connecticut. Tastefully decorated with many Victorian features, the Birdsong Inn offers a unique and elegant atmosphere including many amenities offered at the Inn.

❖ **FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:**
Start off your weekend with a visit to the ***Stomping Ground*** **(www.the-stomping-ground.com)** located in downtown Putnam for a light meal and great entertainment. The menu includes sandwiches, burritos, soups & salad, pot pies plus dessert. The beer menu extensive and they feature live entertainment 5 nights a week starting at 8pm!

❖ **SATURDAY MORNING:**
For breakfast 'go where the locals go' - ***Main Street Grille*** **(www.mainstgrilleputnam.com)** located in downtown Putnam. This popular restaurant features an extensive breakfast menu. Everything is made to order using only the freshest ingredients. Bring your appetite.

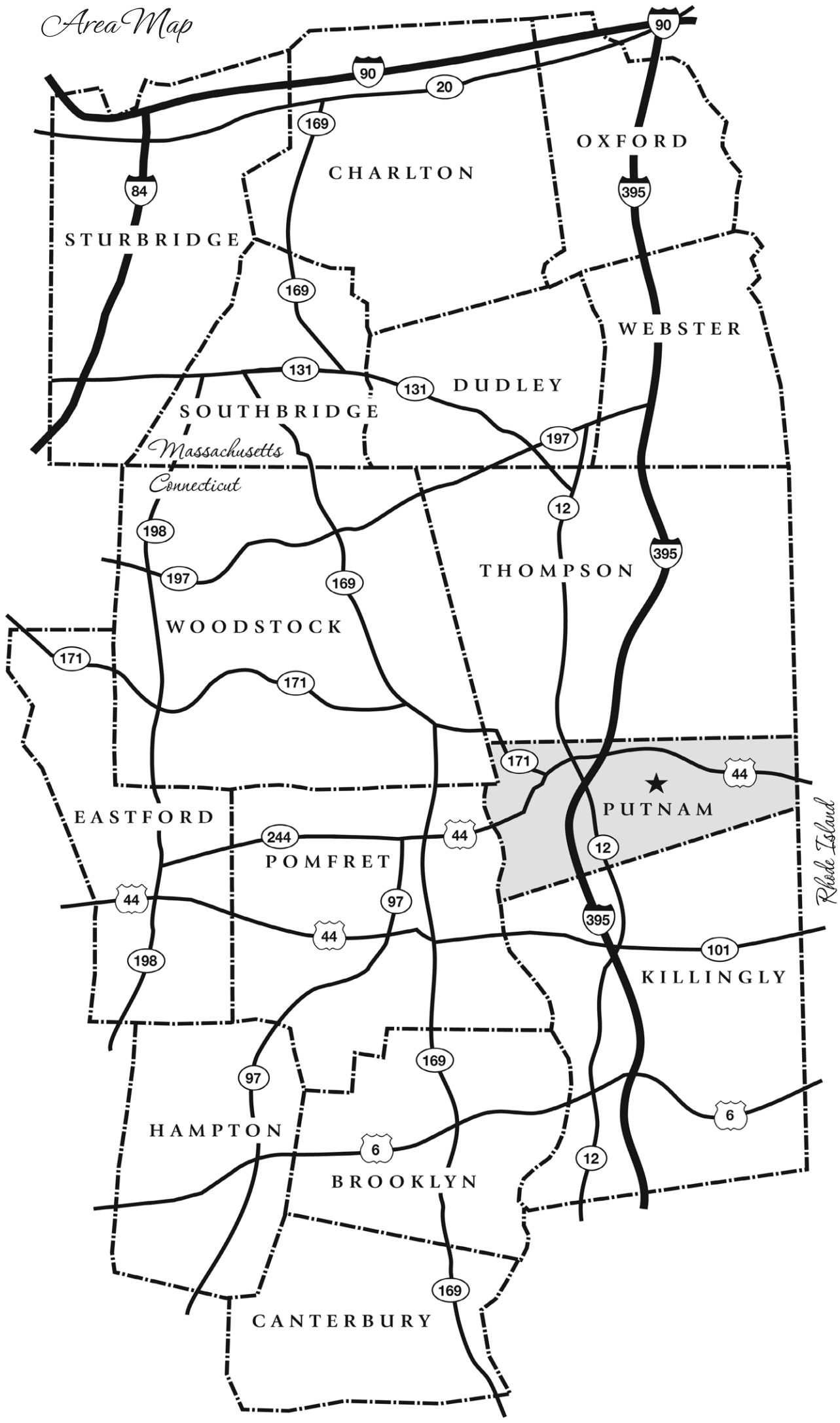
❖ **SATURDAY MID-MORNING:**
After breakfast, you will want to explore Putnam. ***The Antiques Marketplace*** features 3 levels of antiques including jewelry, art, tools, house wares, vintage clothing, furniture and more! ***Jeremiah's Antiques***, located next door, also features antiques including vintage Hollywood items such as posters, props and clothing. If you enjoy unique shops and boutiques, visit ***The Flying Carpet Studio, Sawmill Pottery, Wonderland Books, Arts & Framing, and Panache Consignment Shop, Silver Circle Studio, Abigail's Jewel Box and Glimpse of Gaia Florist.***

❖ **SATURDAY LUNCH:**
85 Main **(www.85main.com)** located on Main Street features indoor and outdoor dining for warmer months. The menu features daily specials made with local ingredients whenever possible, a large daily menu, and a full Raw Bar menu!

❖ **SATURDAY AFTERNOON:**
Visit local greenhouses for some gardening inspiration this year! ***Hart's Greenhouses*** **(www.hartsgreenhouseflorist.com)** located in Brooklyn features everything from trees, shrubs and flowers, to vegetables and herbs. ***Chase Road Grower***s on Chase Road in Thompson **(find them on Facebook)** features an amazing selection of annuals and hanging plants, plus vegetables and herbs. ***Variegated Foliage*** **(www.variegatedfoliage.com)** located in Eastford, features rare varieties of shade plants, trees and shrubs in a beautifully landscaped setting. At ***Fort Hill Farms*** **(www.forthillfarms.com)** located in Thompson, visitors can pick blueberries, wander through more than 70 display gardens and a trio of soul-soothing labrynths created with more than 1,500 plants..

❖ **SATURDAY EVENING:**
Make reservations for dinner at ***The Golden Lamb Buttery*** **(www.thegoldenlamb.com)** located in Brooklyn. Enjoy their traditional prix-fixe dinner offered at 7pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. Begin with cocktails and a hayride around the thousand-acre farm. A four-star dinner is served while live music fills the rooms. Guests are treated like family, and are encouraged to relax at their tables until the candles burn down.

❖ **SUNDAY BRUNCH:**
Take a short drive to Eastford for breakfast at ***Coriander Café*** **(you can find them on Facebook)**. Enjoy gourmet breakfast sandwiches served on homemade bagels, homemade bakery items, and Red Barn coffee. This charming old-time country store and restaurant is a popular spot for both residents and visitors.



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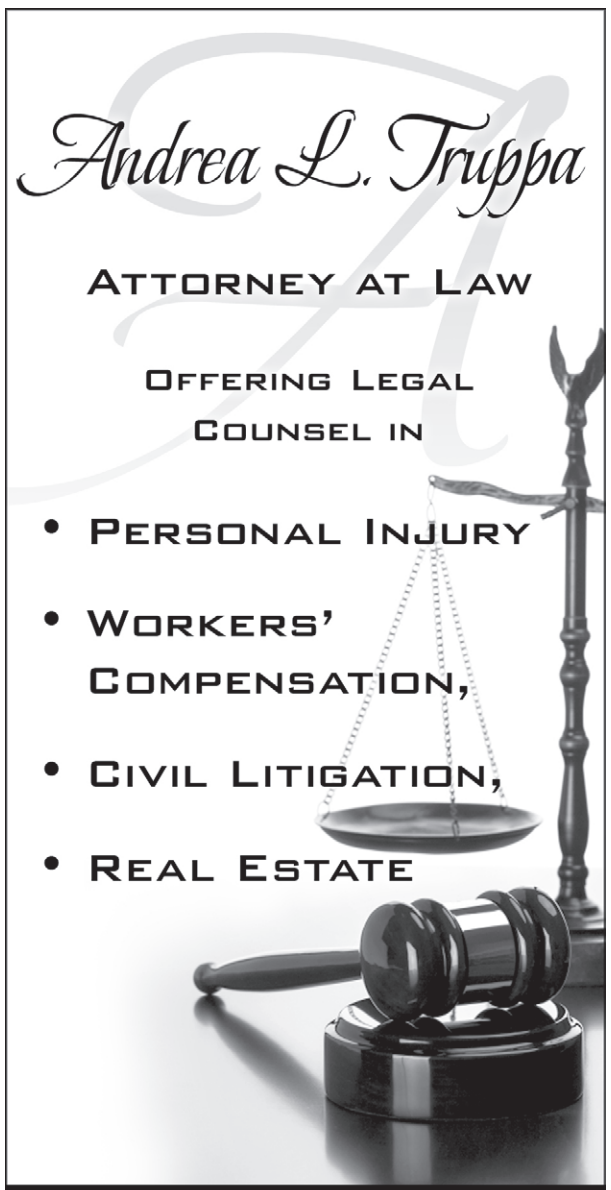

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Ballerina Princess Tea Party
Take a ballet class and have tea with Princess Aurora
January 26 @ 4:30
January 27 @ 1:00

GODSPELL
Directed by Beth Silvia
March 22, 23, 29, 30 @ 8:00
March 24 @ 2:00

American Classics Series
I Never Sang for My Father
Directed by Leslie Snow
April 19 and 20 @ 8:00 April 21 @ 2:00

Snow White
Directed by Seana Hendrickson
May 10 and 11 @ 7:00, May 11 @ 3:00

RENT
July 12, 13,19, 20 @ 8:00
July 14 @ 2:00

Seussical the Musical
Directed by Nichola Johnson
August 8, 9, 10 @ 7:00
August 10 and 11 @ 2:00

American Classics Series
COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA
Directed by Leslie Snow
August 23 and 24 @ 8:00
August 25 @ 2:00

The Memory of Water
Directed by Carole Hayes
September 20, 21, 27, 28 @ 8:00

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
Directed by Seana Hendrickson
October 18 and 19 @ 7:00
October 20 @ 2:00

Dolly Parton's Hilarious Broadway Hit
9 to 5 the MUSICAL
November 1, 2, 8, 9 @ 8:00
November 3 @ 2:00

American Classics Series
WARS PVT
Directed by Leslie Snow
November 22 and 23 @ 7:00
November 24 @ 2:00

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
An original adaptation by Cathy Schora
December 6, 7, 13, 14 @ 7:00
December 8 @ 2:00

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